



## **CITY OF RICHMOND HILL MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

**Tuesday, May 16, 2017  
7:30 P.M.**

**Richmond Hill City Hall Council Chambers  
40 Richard Davis Drive  
Richmond Hill, Georgia 31324**

**Present from City Council:** Harold Fowler, *Mayor*; Russ Carpenter, *Mayor Pro-Tem*; *Councilmembers:* Jan Bass and Johnny Murphy

**Staff Present:** Randy Dykes, *Asst. Planning & Zoning Director*; Dawnne Greene, *City Clerk*; Charlie Heino, *EOM Project Manager*; Mitch Shores, *Police Chief*; and Ralph Catlett, *Fire Chief*

Mayor Fowler called the meeting to order at 7:31 P.M. Councilmember Carpenter gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chief Catlett.

### **AWARD OF WATERFIRST DESIGNATION BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

City of Richmond Hill officials announced tonight that the city has been designated a WaterFirst Community by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. The WaterFirst Community Program is a voluntary partnership that recognizes communities with a strong commitment to water resource stewardship.

As a WaterFirst Community, Richmond Hill will be eligible for financial and other benefits from the state. These include statewide recognition for environmental stewardship; an interest rate reduction on loans made from the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority's Georgia Fund for water, wastewater, and solid waste infrastructure; eligibility for annual applications to the Community Development Block Grant fund for water-related projects; and priority for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources 319 Grant program to help prevent, control and/or abate nonpoint source pollution.

Mayor and Council commended staff for their effort to achieving this designation.

## **Approval of Minutes of Council Meeting May 2, 2017**

**Councilmember Fesperman made a motion to approve the May 2, 2017 City Council Minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bass. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Murphy, Fesperman and Bass.**

### **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

**Administration and Personnel: Dawnne Greene**  
Nothing to report.

#### **Public Safety:**

**Police Department: Mitch Shores**  
Monthly report submitted.

ii. Approval/Disapproval to use SPLOST funds in the amount of \$20,955 for the purchase of a drone

Captain Jason Sakelarios presented Mayor and Council with the many uses that the drone can be used from finding a missing child to determining if hazardous materials are involved in a vehicle accident on I-95. Additionally, other departments could find the drone to be a helpful resource with heat sensing technology to determine if there are still hot spots in brush fires.

**Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to approve the use of SPLOST funds in the amount of \$20,955 for the purchase of a drone. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Murphy, Fesperman and Bass.**

iii. Pinning/Introduction of Promoted Police Personnel

Sergeant Ruben Acosta was introduced as Corporal Ruben Acosta by Captain Raymond Fowler, and pinned by his wife. Mayor and Council offered their congratulations too.

**Fire Department: Ralph Catlett**  
Monthly report submitted.

**Public Works: Charles Heino, Enviroworx**  
Monthly report submitted.

**Park & Tree: Harvey Lashley**  
Nothing to report.

Planning, Zoning, and Code Enforcement: Randy Dykes

1. First Reading of an Amendment to the Code of Ordinances of The City of Richmond Hill, Georgia, Chapter 18 — Buildings and Building Regulations, Article VI — Architectural Design; Chapter 34 — Environment, Article IV — Soil Erosion, Sedimentation, and Pollution Control; Chapter 42 — Floods; Chapter 56 — Stormwater Management; Chapter 58 — Subdivisions; Chapter 67 — Trees; Chapter 68 — Landscaping; and Appendix A — Zoning; to adopt the **"Unified Development Ordinance of the City of Richmond Hill, Georgia"**; to repeal conflicting ordinances; to provide for an effective date; and for other purposes.
2. First Reading of an Amendment to the Code of Ordinances of The City of Richmond Hill, Georgia, to adopt a new, revised **"Official Zoning Map of Richmond Hill"**; to repeal conflicting ordinances; to provide for an effective date; and for other purposes.
3. First Reading of an Amendment to the Code of Ordinances of The City of Richmond Hill, Georgia, **Chapter 34 - Environment, Article I. Noise Regulation, Section 34-4 — Restricted Uses and Activities; and Article II. Community Preservation and Improvement, Section 3442 — Definitions and Section 3444— Unlawful Property Nuisance**, for the purpose of providing for time period thresholds for restricted uses and activities, to define "unreasonable period", and to specify the provisions of the 2012 International Property Maintenance Code as unlawful property nuisance.
4. Approval/Disapproval of the project entrance sign for **Creek Valley Townhomes** to be located at Harris Trail Road and Regis Way.

**Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to approve the project entrance sign for Creek Valley Townhomes to be located at Harris Trail Road and Regis Way. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Murphy, Fesperman and Bass.**

Finance: Bob Whitmarsh

1. Approval/disapproval of 2016 SPLOST BUDGET amendments

**Councilmember Fesperman made a motion to approve 2016 SPLOST BUDGET amendments. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bass. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Murphy, and Bass.**

2. Approval/disapproval of 2016 GENERAL FUND amendments

**Councilmember Bass made a motion to approve 2016 GENERAL FUND**

**amendments. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fesperman. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Murphy, and Bass.**

**CITY MANAGER TOPICS:**

1. Approval/disapproval of 2017 Chevrolet Tahoe purchase for General Administration

There was discussion regarding the need for this particular vehicle, or if another make/model would suffice.

**Councilmember Murphy made a motion to approve a 2017 Chevrolet Tahoe purchase for General Administration. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Carpenter. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Murphy, and Bass. Councilmember Fesperman was opposed.**

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Mayor received a letter from the CRC asking the City to nominate a new representative. Please forward any nominee information to him.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**Councilmember Carpenter made a motion to take a recess for refreshments only. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bass. Motion was carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Murphy, Carpenter and Bass.**

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:18 P.M. in a motion by Councilmember Carpenter. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Bass. Motion carried in the affirmative by Councilmembers Carpenter, Bass and Murphy.**

Respectfully submitted by,

  
Dawnne Greene  
City Clerk